

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A F O U R

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: COFFEE: ICO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MARCH 19-20

REF: LONDON 10313, DECEMBER 10, 1973

SUMMARY. ICO EXECUTIVE BOARD MET MARCH 19-20. MOST AGENDA ITEMS WERE ROUTINE AND HANDLED QUICKLY. HOWEVER, AN EXTENDED DEBATE ON STATISTICS ENLIVENED SECOND DAY OF MEETING. END SUMMARY

2. ON FIRST DAY OF ICO BOARD MEETING NUMBER OF MATTERS OF ROUTINE WERE ON AGENDA. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTING ON MEMBERSHIP ADVISED THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAD FORMALLY ACCEDED TO ICA ON FEBRUARY 1ST. NIGERIA THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT HAD NOT ACCEPTED AGREEMENT. BOARD AGREED TO RECOMMEND RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW NIGERIA TO REJOIN AS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1973 ON SAME TERMS AS IF IT HAD MADE TIMELY APPLICATION. VOTE WILL BE BY POSTAL BALLOT. BOARD ALSO DECIDED TO EXTEND TIME LIMIT IN PARA 3, RESOLUTION 264 (FOR COMPLETION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES IN ACCEPTING ICA) TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1974.

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3. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ON FUTURE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

WAS AGREED TO DROP BOARD AND COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MAY AND SUBSTITUTE MEETING OF RENEGOTIATION WORKING GROUP WHICH WILL BEGIN MAY 20TH AND CONTINUE INTO NEXT WEEK IF NECESSARY. BOARD ALSO TENTATIVELY SET JULY 1ST AND 2ND FOR ITS NEXT MEETING.

4. BOARD ALSO DEALT WITH REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE AND ACCEPTED REVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND UNCLASSIFIED SALARY SCALES (LONDON A-208) WITH ONE VARIATION. IMCO NOW PAYING ONE FULL POST ADJUSTMENT AND ICO EMPLOYEES WILL BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENT. WAS ALSO AGREED TO GRANT FINANCE COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO VARIATION OF POST ADJUSTMENTS AS LONG AS BUDGET NOT THEREBY EXCEEDED.

5. ON STATISTICS, LONG DEBATE INITIATED BY FRENCH WHO SOUGHT TO OBTAIN FROM PRODUCERS REVISED (AND MORE ACCURATE) STATISTICS COVERING THEIR PAST PERFORMANCE UNDER ICO, AS WELL AS DATA ON THEIR STOCK POSITION ON DECEMBER 31, 1973. THIS RESISTED STRONGLY BY GUATEMALA, MEXICO AND BRAZIL, WHILE U.S. AND EL SALVADOR SUPPORTED FRENCH INITIATIVE. EVENTUALLY WATERED DOWN VERSION OF FRENCH PROPOSAL ADOPTED UNDER WHICH BOARD EXHORTED MEMBERS WHOSE STATISTICS WERE IN ARREARS TO SUPPLY THEM RAPIDLY AND AGREED THAT PRODUCER MEMBERS WOULD BE ASKED TO CERTIFY THEIR STOCKS ON SAME DATES THAT ICO WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT STOCK VERIFICATION. WHAT LAY BEHIND DEBATE WAS SUCCINCTLY SUMMED UP BY BRAZILIANS WHO SAID THAT SOME PRODUCERS CAN NOT EXPECT "TO HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT". IN OTHER WORDS, EXPORTERS WHO WERE ABLE IN PAST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOOPHOLES IN ICO CONTROL SYSTEM CAN'T CORRECT THEIR STATISTICS AND EXPECT TO ENJOY LARGER QUOTA IN SOME POSSIBLE FUTURE AGREEMENT.

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